

RODNEY J. REYNOLDS: A COLD WAR POLITICIAN OF NEVADA IN THE FIFTIES

Interviewee: Rodney J. Reynolds

Interviewed: 1977

Published: 1977

Interviewer: Bruce Walker Reynolds

UNOHP Catalog #073

Description

Rodney J. Reynolds was born on July 31, 1912, in Currie, Nevada. The settlement consisted of a one-room school house, a freight house, and a combination general store, post office, meeting place, and saloon. There were also three homes, one of which was uninhabited, and six families lived in the surrounding area.

Reynolds spent nine years in Currie, but his parents knew there were no grand opportunities in Currie and that it was no place to raise a family. The family moved to Elko, a large and bustling community of eighteen hundred, in the fall of 1921. Elko was the county seat, the division point for the Western Pacific, and the ranching center for northern Nevada. His father opened a meat market, bought a house, and Reynolds began his first real education at the Elko Grammar School. He finished his secondary education under the tutelage of the well-known educator Miss Knemeyer, and was graduated from Elko County High School with a diploma in science.

The rumblings of the Depression had not yet been felt in Elko when Reynolds left home to attend the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Depression caused his father to lose his business, and Reynolds was forced to return home after only one year of college. The Depression had great consequences for his future life.

In the thirties Reynolds held a multitude of short run-jobs: tank truck diver, surveyor, and procurement clerk for the Civilian Conservation Corps restoring Fort Churchill. As a young man he witnessed the revolution of American ideals in Roosevelt's New Deal policies. In the ensuing years this was to make as great an impression upon him as the Depression.

He married Margaret Ellen Walker of Sparks in 1937, and moved to Reno. He bought the Silver State Lodge, a motel built in the twenties for the divorce trade. The motel was located on old Highway 40—now West Fourth Street. He owned and operated the Silver State Lodge for twenty-six years.

During World War II Reynolds worked as a flight dispatcher for Pan-American Airways in the South Pacific on the islands of Funafuti, Wallis, and Canton. He returned to Reno in 1945 after the war and established himself as a businessman and civic leader. He joined the Rotary Club, was membership chairman and later became director of the Reno Chamber of Commerce. Reynolds was elected twice to the state assembly as a Republican in 1952 and 1954. He was a keen observer of Nevada cold war politics, which he describes in his oral history.

**RODNEY J. REYNOLDS:
A COLD WAR POLITICIAN
OF NEVADA IN THE FIFTIES**

RODNEY J. REYNOLDS: A COLD WAR POLITICIAN OF NEVADA IN THE FIFTIES

BRUCE REYNOLDS PRODUCED THIS ORAL HISTORY AS A STUDENT IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO, 1977 SUMMER SESSION COURSE,
“ORAL HISTORY: METHOD AND TECHNIQUE.” MR. REYNOLDS IS A STUDENT IN
HISTORY AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA.

An Oral History Conducted by Bruce Walker Reynolds

University of Nevada Oral History Program

Copyright 1977
University of Nevada Oral History Program
Mail Stop 0324
Reno, Nevada 89557
unohp@unr.edu
<http://www.unr.edu/oralhistory>

All rights reserved. Published 1977.
Printed in the United States of America

Publication Staff:
Director: Mary Ellen Glass

University of Nevada Oral History Program Use Policy

All UNOHP interviews are copyrighted materials. They may be downloaded and/or printed for personal reference and educational use, but not republished or sold. Under “fair use” standards, excerpts of up to 1000 words may be quoted for publication without UNOHP permission as long as the use is non-commercial and materials are properly cited. The citation should include the title of the work, the name of the person or people interviewed, the date of publication or production, and the fact that the work was published or produced by the University of Nevada Oral History Program (and collaborating institutions, when applicable). Requests for permission to quote for other publication, or to use any photos found within the transcripts, should be addressed to the UNOHP, Mail Stop 0324, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557-0324. Original recordings of most UNOHP interviews are available for research purposes upon request.

CONTENTS

Preface to the Digital Edition	ix
Introduction	ix
A Cold War Politician of Nevada in the Fifties	1
Original Index: For Reference Only	29

PREFACE TO THE DIGITAL EDITION

Established in 1964, the University of Nevada Oral History Program (UNOHP) explores the remembered past through rigorous oral history interviewing, creating a record for present and future researchers. The program's collection of primary source oral histories is an important body of information about significant events, people, places, and activities in twentieth and twenty-first century Nevada and the West.

The UNOHP wishes to make the information in its oral histories accessible to a broad range of patrons. To achieve this goal, its transcripts must speak with an intelligible voice. However, no type font contains symbols for physical gestures and vocal modulations which are integral parts of verbal communication. When human speech is represented in print, stripped of these signals, the result can be a morass of seemingly tangled syntax and incomplete sentences—totally verbatim transcripts sometimes verge on incoherence. Therefore, this transcript has been lightly edited.

While taking great pains not to alter meaning in any way, the editor may have removed false starts, redundancies, and the “uhs,” “ahs,” and other noises with which speech is often liberally sprinkled; compressed some passages which, in unaltered form, misrepresent the chronicler's meaning; and relocated some material to place information in its intended context. Laughter is represented with [laughter] at the end of a sentence in which it occurs, and ellipses are used to indicate that a statement has been interrupted or is incomplete...or that there is a pause for dramatic effect.

As with all of our oral histories, while we can vouch for the authenticity of the interviews in the UNOHP collection, we advise readers to keep in mind that these are remembered pasts, and we do not claim that the recollections are entirely free of error. We can state, however, that the transcripts accurately reflect the oral history recordings on which they were based. Accordingly, each transcript should be approached with the

same prudence that the intelligent reader exercises when consulting government records, newspaper accounts, diaries, and other sources of historical information. All statements made here constitute the remembrance or opinions of the individuals who were interviewed, and not the opinions of the UNOHP.

In order to standardize the design of all UNOHP transcripts for the online database, most have been reformatted, a process that was completed in 2012. This document may therefore differ in appearance and pagination from earlier printed versions. Rather than compile entirely new indexes for each volume, the UNOHP has made each transcript fully searchable electronically. If a previous version of this volume existed, its original index has been appended to this document for reference only. A link to the entire catalog can be found online at <http://oralhistory.unr.edu/>.

For more information on the UNOHP or any of its publications, please contact the University of Nevada Oral History Program at Mail Stop 0324, University of Nevada, Reno, NV, 89557-0324 or by calling 775/784-6932.

Alicia Barber
Director, UNOHP
July 2012

INTRODUCTION

Earl Gilson Reynolds, a native of Putnam County Ohio, brought his new bride, Anna Leona Kimmerle, to Currie, Nevada, in March of 1907. Currie, a railroad depot for the Nevada Northern, halfway between Cobre and Ely, or this side of nowhere, was the birthplace of Rodney J. Reynolds. The settlement — it can hardly be described as anything else — consisted of a one-room school house, a freight house, and a combination general store, post office, meeting place, saloon. There were also three homes, one of which was uninhabited. Six families lived in the surrounding area when on his mother's birthday, July 31, 1912, Rodney Reynolds was born.

He spent nine long, dry, dusty years in Currie enjoying his backyard which stretched out as far as the eye could see, the four burros which his father had bought from a bankrupt miner, and the occasional voyage to a lonely isolated cattle ranch. His parents knew there were no grand opportunities in Currie and that it was no place to raise a family.

The Reynolds family moved to Elko, an incredibly large and bustling community of 1,800 by the standards of Currie, in the fall of 1921. Elko, then as now, was the county seat, division point for the Western Pacific, and the ranching center for Northern Nevada. His father opened a meat market, bought a house, and Rodney began his first real education at the new Elko Grammar School. With ten rooms and two hundred students ranging from grades one through eight, the new school was overwhelming to a youngster whose previous education had consisted of a one-room school house with the maximum number of students leveling off at eight. But Rodney gradually adapted to city life and became engrossed in the spirit of a small northern Nevada town.

He finished his secondary education under the tutelage of the well known educator, Miss Knemyer, and was graduated from Elko County High School with a diploma in science.

The rumblings of the depression had not yet been felt in Elko when Rodney left

home to attend the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The depression had begun in Pittsburgh in 1930. Unemployed steel workers in toeless shoes selling government bought apples for 5¢ a piece was a daily reality for him, not a myth of the newspapers.

By this time the insipid tentacles of the depression had reached even as far as Elko. His father lost his business, and Rodney was forced to return home after only one year of college education, his only year. He repeats again and again in the dialog that follows how great the consequence of the depression was upon him, his future, his life.

In the thirties Rodney held a multitude of short run jobs: tank truck diver, surveyor, procurement clerk for the Civilian Conservation Corps restoring Fort Churchill. As a young man he witnesses the revolution of American ideals in Roosevelt's New Deal policies. And in the ensuing years this was to make as great an image upon him as the depression.

He married Margaret Ellen Walker of Sparks in 1937, moved to Reno, and bought the Silver State Lodge, a motel built in the twenties for the divorce trade. The motel was located on old Highway 40 to San Francisco: it's now West Fourth Street. He was to own and operate the Silver State Lodge for the next twenty-six years.

World War II intervened in the forties, and, with a paramilitary position, Rodney worked as a flight dispatcher in the South Pacific on the now forgotten islands of Funafuti Wallis, and Canton for Pan American Airways. He returned to Reno in 1945 after the war.

Approaching early middle age, his views on politics had been molded by the depression, the New Deal, and a world war. He established himself as a businessman and civic leader in Reno. He joined the Rotary

Club, was membership chairman and later director of the Reno Chamber of Commerce, and was finally elected to the state assembly as a Republican in 1952. He was a cold war politician.

Senator Joe McCarthy, the John Birch Society, the elusive communist threat, and those other fleeting, transparent organizations of thought all manifested themselves in his politics. In the 46th and 47th sessions of the legislature, education was the primary issue and the financing of education the greater part of that issue. Public spending, more taxes, a larger and increasingly complex bureaucracy would create strenuous conflicts with a conservative businessman from Reno. Nevada witnessed unprecedented growth and change in the fifties, and Rodney J. Reynolds was there.

Bruce Walker Reynolds
July, 1977

A COLD WAR POLITICIAN OF NEVADA IN THE FIFTIES

Bruce Walker Reynolds: Dad, let's start off with Elko in the thirties and your early political development. Who were some of the major political figures in Elko at that time?

Rodney J. Reynolds: Well, I wasn't very knowledgeable state-wise then, for I was eighteen years old. But my neighbor was John E. Robbins who had long been senator, state senator from Elko County, a close friend of mine. He was conscious of my inability to get a job during the depression, and, in fact, I approached him about it several times. One thing led to another, and he did finally land me a job in Reno with the State Park Service, emergency conservation work under one of Roosevelt's original government spending programs. We had a CCC camp operating at Fort Churchill with the restoration of the old camp walls of the old fort there. I was hired as a procurement clerk there for the Reno office to buy all the merchandise, tools, and so forth for that camp. That was my introduction to government work.

Was unemployment high in Nevada during the depression?

Oh yes, tremendously so, particularly so in Elko County where the sheep men and cattle men had been so incredibly so hard hit. We had a couple of hard winters on top of it arid the railroads of Elko being the Western Pacific terminal, the Western Pacific was extremely hard hit not being a transcontinental railroad like the Southern Pacific it was hurt worse than most railroads. So, they curtailed operations greatly and many WP railroaders living in Elko were out of work. The competition was pretty tough for a young eighteen to twenty year old.

What were these CCC camps like?

Well, the CCC, Civilian Conservation Corps, the full term for them was a program envisioned in Washington, to bring the youth off the streets from the big cities: particularly out in the West, all over the country, but

mainly in the West to give them a new insight in life, a little change of scenery. It was patterned off the army operation, the army camps, with more lax, more lenient rules to live by. But they received their board and room and lived in the camps much in army style. They wore khakis, army style clothes, and they were in groups of around two to three hundred that would constitute a camp. There were many in Nevada. I just happened to be associated with the one at Fort Churchill. There were a couple operating out of Vegas and a couple operating out of Reno, and I think Ely and Elko to. But I was procurement clerk for the state park service and Fort Churchill had been declared a state park. They had petitioned for federal funds to rebuild and formalize the old ruins that were at Fort Churchill as a state park. And my job was a desk job working in an office which happened to be a spare office in the district highway offices of the Nevada State Highway Department because Robert Allen who was state highway engineer who was also head of the state park service at the time. The State Park Service being a nebulous thing in this state during those years; just getting started. It later became a more massive organization and had its own head, entirely separate from the highway department. But through that connection I then gravitated to the highway department. When Fort Churchill was completed in the fall, the CCC camp was closed because it was a winter it was a winter camp. It was strictly a summer camp. The boys were dispersed and sent other places; many of them, I guess, went home to school. The procurement office was shut down in Reno and I had to move on. And through Mr. Allen — he was very gracious and got me a job, and took me to work at the highway department, on the survey crews. Then followed four of five years where I worked for the highway department.

Who was governor at the time of these CCC camps; wasn't it Richard Kirman?

Well, let's see, the governor— Dick Kirman was governor. When I was at the highway department and I think he was governor during my term with the State Park Service. He was a Democrat, Robert Allen my good friend was a Democrat and so was Jack Robbins in Elko. Jack Robbins was Democratic chairman for Elko County and a state Senator, so here I was a Republican from a Republican family making the most from a Democratic regime. But I enjoyed the work, and it was good for me to get away from home, away from the parents and out on my own since I couldn't return to college. So it was good that I got into work in the government.

How well did you know Judge Milton and Mrs. Gertrude Badt? In Elko at this time that is

Well, Judge Badt was another politician, you might say, but in the judiciary rather than in the executive or legislative branches. He was serving as a private practicing attorney in Elko when I knew him. They lived across the street from my parents home where I lived- I got to know them very well, through that relationship, I did much work in their yard shoveled snow for them in the winter, and that sort of thing. Mrs. Badt had been my teacher in high school. She had been my English teacher, before she was married to Judge Badt. Her name was Miss Nitze, a very excellent highly intelligent woman and an excellent teacher. I was very fond of her and I became very fond of Judge Badt too.

Was Elko County at this time mostly Republican?

Yes, Elko county was a Republican county per se, though there was a strong Democratic

implication through the county from the railroads; because they were labor union people. There was always a contest in the city of Elko between the Republicans and the Democrats. Most of the businessmen being Republicans and most of the labor people of course Democratic. County wide, I think, the Democrats were outnumbered. It was essentially county— but those agricultural counties are inclined to look at the man rather than the party. Jack Robbins was an excellent senator, he understood Nevada, he was born and reared in the state, loyal to it, and widely accepted as a Democrat. He was a conservative Democrat by the way.

Were there any strikes in Elko at this time? In other words was there organized labor?

There had been a severe strike at the WP Yards previous to the IWW days. It was pretty stringent with beatings and fist fights and so forth. But there were no labor problems there during the depression to speak of. It was no time to strike. The union knew they had no power, and industry was just shutting down, and there was nothing that could be done about it. It was a just a collapse of industry and employment both. It was a world wide phenomena at that time too.

So you went on from working at the highway department to Reno in 1936.

No, no I came to Reno with the state park job in 1934. I had worked with the U.S. Geological survey right there at Elko for a couple of summers prior to that just part time work on the survey crew. But I came to Reno with the state park service and found perpetual employment thereafter the year round. Having up the idea of going back to school completely, I knew I had to work, so

I came to Reno in '34 and have worked here ever since you. might say.

Bruce, I would like to make a few remarks about the depression because I am of an age where there are only a few of us left that went through the depression. The great depression of the thirties and it was an awesome thing—the world and this country had never seen anything like it— before wherein the government seemed to be sound, the money seemed to be sound and yet industry seemed to be shutting down, millionaires were becoming paupers, overnight through the loss of stock in the stock markets, the stock market had collapsed, the banks were closed. And it was truly an awesome time for a young man my age. It has left fixed impressions, some of course I will never forget, and I suppose it has molded my career and character considerably, because I was so stunned. With older people admitting that they had never seen anything like it before, prices were ridiculously low, I remember that eggs were five and ten cents a dozen, bread was five cents a loaf. I can remember my mother and my father getting together and trading one-half a ton of coal to a farmer for one half a side of pig. And my mother would take that pork, and cut it up, and make everything out of it that she could think of. There was considerable bartering going on it was truly an awesome time. Many, many young men would not get to college. If they didn't have a college in their town I would say none did go off to college except a few of the people who had good jobs, that were able to carry through. Only their children got away to college, as cheap as college was, in these days. And it's a fact that it tends to affect a persons life ever after, seeing such an awesome thing as that. Because I remember I had been in college in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania the winter before, to see those men in the streets peddling apples with the toes out of their

shoes, in sub zero weather, selling the apples at five cents a piece.... I believe the city had bought and purchased the apples for them, and them to them, and we all ate apples out of charity, trying to help these people, it was truly an awesome sight. Pittsburgh was no place for a young man in 1930-31 I'll tell you.

Lets jump ahead a bit, with your working on the Nevada State Highway Department crew, you were on the construction crew of the highway from Winnemucca to McDermitt in 1938 is that correct?

My first assignment was with the resident engineer, named Al Kidding, whose folks had been close friends with my folks, whom I knew well. He had been with the highway department many years. I had been assigned to his survey crew on a construction job from Winnemucca to McDermitt, specifically, Paradise Hill to Orovada, which was under way at the moment.

What was the road like before you worked on it?

It was strictly a country road meandering through the sage brush trees and rocks. The highway department came along and straightened it out, and engineered it properly and put in the proper drainage. But it still continued to be a narrow two lane road by present standards. At first it was graveled with three quarter inch size gravel and then it was oiled, a few years later. This would be in the winter of 1933 or 1934.

In 1938 you quit the highway department and you began work with the Soil Conservation Service; what did this consist of?

Well, by this time I had been married to Margaret Walker of Sparks, and we were

expecting our first baby, your older sister Pat. I knew the highway department had been good to me and I enjoyed the work tremendously. But the salary schedule at one hundred and twenty a month was not adequate to support a family. By this time the country was starting to come out of the depression, starting to stabilize, and industry was starting to liven up a bit. I thought I could do better on my own I could certainly make one hundred and twenty dollars a month. I quit the highway department, having been on the highway department five years. I thought I could run my own crew and the Soil Conservation Service was advertising for resident surveyors and civil engineers to do some soil studies in the Smith Valley area. I took a job with them knowing it would be only temporary and it only lasted about six months. But I ran a survey crew there for about six months making a topographic map and some other survey connections.

You eventually moved to Reno in the fall of 1938 and bought the Silver State Lodge.

Yes, it was obvious to me as I spent my many hours along the highways of the state working for the highway department that the tourist business was picking up. My folks had gotten into a modest old camp ground operation in Elko. In visiting them I would notice the tourist influx. They were housing these tourists. I could see a potential for the tourist industry in the future, as cars picked up, as we were building these roads, building and improving them, that people would be able to travel easier, faster, cheaply and safely and there should be considerably more travel than we had ever seen in America in the west. I think I did have vision in that respect. Well, many others did too, and I felt I could take a chance as a young man on an opening

of a motel or some business, catering to the tourist, and it seemed to me that the motel business was the best. So, I came to Reno and got into contact with my folks to see if I could get some financial help from them. They were digging out of the depression a bit by that time and through a family arrangement we did purchase what was known as the Silver State Lodge, 17901 West Fourth Street, in Reno. It was on the main road to San Francisco, which was one of the hottest tourist roads in the state. I was there twenty-five years and I did very well. It wound up rather disastrously, but your mother and I enjoyed many good years there. I worked awfully hard, many hours, it was very confining, but it was lucrative.

Were most of the people staying there from the divorce trade or were they strictly tourists?

Well, the institution we had bought had been aimed originally at the divorce trade in the late twenties and early thirties, because that had been one of Nevada's key industries at the time. It was pushed strongly in the early years of the depression to compensate for the other losses. The Nevada legislature had instituted the six week residency for divorce which made it agreeable to people back east particularly New York and Philadelphia and the other big cities, to come to Reno. They did, and they started flocking here and there were many dude ranches and guest houses and even hotels aimed at this tourist trade. Both men and women came here for six weeks and moved on. The attorneys were all of course in the business. So the institution I had bought had been aimed at that period. But by the time I bought it in the fall of 1938 the tourist business, the transient tourist, had become more popular and prominent. This facet of the housing industry was sort of easing off a bit. The Silver State, which had been aimed at

the divorce trade, with individual units and house keeping accommodations we converted into a motel. We more or less abolished the kitchens and converted them into bedrooms and we reoriented the thing into overnight transient accommodations.

We have to jump quite a ways, skip World War II, and now I would like to talk about Reno in 1946, post World War II years, you were a member of the Reno Rotary Club at that time.

I joined in 1946 when I came back from the war.

Who were some of the leading members of the Rotary Club, the leading business men?

Well, of course, the bankers are always considered the leading businessmen. Harold Gorman was a member of the club and I had known him, Forest Lovelock was one of our more prominent automobile dealers, Marsh Johnson was the Chevrolet dealer, Lovelock had the Ford dealership, members of the club, the Southworths, Southworth Tobacco Company, all of the old business hands of Reno who were popular downtown operators, belonged to Rotary and I was asked to join. I thought it was a fine thing to do, and I have always enjoyed it.

Post World War II Reno politics: was Reno really the center of the political situation of the state?

Yes, Vegas was getting started everybody could see that there was going to be a future in Las Vegas by virtue of the huge Basic Magnesium plant that had been out in Henderson, down there in World War II. With the completion, of course of Boulder Dam during the late thirties, and with the

combination of these two, everybody could see that Vegas was going to be something. But as of yet, Vegas had not arrived and Reno was still definitely the political center of the state. The cow counties would furnish some of the opposition, but generally they were in harmony with Reno's politics. Reno was a Republican community, it was the finance center of the state, the leading banks were centered here, most of the lawyers of the state were centered here, in Reno. The judicial system was centered here, of course Carson City the state capitol only thirty miles away had long made Reno prominent in politics.

Who were some of the moneyed interests in Reno in the forties?

Well, I think the Wingfields despite the fact that they had taken a terrible shellacking during the depression.

How did this come about?

Well, Wingfield owned most of the banks in Nevada. The Wingfield banks, there was a chain of them... He had one in practically every town of the state, they collapsed during the depression, not through poor banking particularly but through... but because banking at that time was not controlled as it is now. They loaned rather liberally to their friends, to business interests and when prices just collapsed, so severely they just collapsed with them. But they survived with some of their funds and they had gotten into a gold mine, the Getchell mine. Noble Getchell and George Wingfield were partners in the Getchell mine north of Winnemucca. They hit it rich there during the war and right afterward. Just before the war and during the war they made millions out of that mine. That was a peculiar mine. The mine started

out as a gold strike, it was very lucrative and the war came on. Roosevelt shut down gold production, because they couldn't afford the miners to be mining gold. They needed industrial metallics and here along side of the gold deposit they had a tungsten deposit. They just switched their mill and it became a tungsten producer, during the war and after. They continued to make money. The Wingfields, George senior was in his—, an older man at this time. He owned the Riverside hotel and much other property. He was one of the leading elder statesman, one might say, of an older finance advisor for the state. His young son George had started following in his fathers footsteps, in managing the hotel. They were members of the Rotary Club and I knew young George very well, I knew the father slightly.

From your knowledge at that time were they, so to speak kingmakers in the state of Nevada? Were they controlling politicians of any sort, or helping finance election campaigns?

They were keenly interested in politics and political candidates, but I wouldn't say they were controlling it. During the epic of the Wingfields demise, not death but retrenchment, another family...

What is this that you are speaking of?

Well during the depression. Another personality had come to Reno who had married into the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York, named Norman Biltz. After a few years of endearing himself to the community and with the huge fortune behind him I would say that after the war Norman Biltz became the key political kingmaker of the state. I use that word reluctantly, because I knew Norman very well I had many, many meetings with

him and almost got into business with him once. He was very discreet and subtle about it, but he did have tremendous influence he was keenly interested in Nevada politics. He was a conservative and followed closely the Republican tenets. All in all, he was good for the community and good for the state. He helped me politically, I think, and I know he helped many other men.

Were George Wingfield, Noble Getchell and finally Norman Biltz, were they working for or against Governor Vail Pittman?

I think that they all tolerated Vail Pittman, he was a state personality here, he had a newspaper over in Ely prior to his governorship, and he was the brother of our famous senator Key Pittman. Key had long been a figure dominant in the politics of Nevada and although he was a Democrat, he was conservative...With the mining interests he espoused Nevada interests really well in Washington. He had been there so long, he had become president pro tern of the senate and had tremendous power in Washington. I think he approved of president Roosevelt... because of his position in the senate. So we had this Pittman family, a strong political hierarchy and I think the Wingfields and Biltz went along. Although the Wingfields were registered as Republicans and Biltz was a registered as a Democrat, it was possible that Norman was closer to the Pittmans, than were the Wingfields, who were ebbing off anyway in politics, George senior being an old man. I would say that George junior never quite filled the bill that his dad did. might add that I really truly believed that Norman Biltz was a little disappointed in Vail Pittman. He was not that astute, knowledgeable, polished politician that his brother Key was. I personally had a couple of run-ins with Vail Pittman. I found

the man rather naive, bigoted, and extremely prejudiced. However he was a loyal Nevadan.

When and where did these conversations with Vail Pittman take place?

I don't recall now what the issues were; I believe one had to do with public housing. I was in the housing business at the motel; we did much rental business in the winter time and with the tourists in the summer. Vail, I believe, was helping institute some public housing... No, that may not have been the issue. I was becoming prominent in the Reno Chamber of Commerce. This is right after WWII. I finally went to work with the Chamber of Commerce as a membership director even though I was still running the motel. I had a little extra time; I was stumping for a greater Reno Chamber of Commerce to really put Reno on the map. We had a thriving community and it needed some leadership, business-wise, and we felt that the Chamber of Commerce was the medium to do that. So many of QS joined together and upped our dues tenfold over what they had been in the past. We raised several thousand dollars.

Who is we?

Oh, the leading businessmen, the leading contractors, the power company, the bankers, and the hotel people. We all could see that Reno needed some leadership to give some advice to the city council, to give some help to the county commissioners, to help make decisions. There was no medium to which they could turn for committee studies, and the Chamber of Commerce took it upon themselves to make these studies of the future tourist business and what we should have and literally demanded...more hotels to house the people. We encouraged the power company

to expand so that we could continue to have plenty of cheap power to let business expand, and I became prominent in that movement. Some of that fell counter to some of the state government concepts through Vail Pittman.

Prior to WWII the Reno Chamber of Commerce was rather a weak or informal body?

Prior to the war it had rather been a watchdog over railroad rates to see that we weren't getting cheated on railroad rates, and we had a man who was a rate specialist, Ed Walker, a fine old gentleman and an expert in his field which was rate structures and that was important. But with the tourist business coming on our new highways and the aviation industry booming along, we needed a new airport, we needed some refinements in town that Ed Walker couldn't handle. So we expanded the Chamber, hired a new manager who was an ex-airline operator. By the way Bill Brussard had been United Airlines agent in Reno and was very conscious of the tourist business. They got him to take the managership of the Chamber, and he in turn asked me to be his membership director. I helped them for a year. We naturally gravitated into political conflicts with the city, the county commissioners, and the state government because of some of the ideas we had. All in all it was an amicable thing; it was rapid growth, and there is always stress and strain in a situation like that.

How influential was Pat McCarran in Reno at this time?

Pat McCarran was the counterpart of Key Pittman. When Key Pittman passed out of the picture as an old man, and he was twenty years older than Pat McCarran, I think Pat McCarran filled the bill, and he

became a power in Washington. Pat was considered a wild jackass in politics, and he went on a tangent. He was an individualist, he was a Catholic, he hated the communist-socialist movement, and he got himself deeply involved there. The Walter-McCarran Immigration Act was one of the results of his efforts in Washington, and it was a very fine piece of legislation in my opinion. He was also a member of the senate internal securities committee and did some prominent work there investigating the communist ties you will recall right after the war with Russia.

I think he was highly respected by the average citizen, though few knew him. He was not a man who spent much time on the street. He worked through his henchmen, his political colleagues, and lower echelon operators.

We were talking about Senator Pat McCarran.

Yes, I was saying I didn't know Pat McCarran myself very well; although, I had met him myself on half a dozen occasions. He was not a man you would quietly sit down and visit hour after hour; he was a nervous type. He always had another meeting to go to or something else to do. But he was certainly a power in Washington. He gave Franklin Roosevelt a real bad time, and I personally approved of his philosophies, almost completely. He was a Democrat and I would find him slipping off into the Democratic machine quite often in order to enhance his next election, but once he was elected you could rest assured he was back on the conservative side and defending America and business and the farm people, the mining people, the ranching people. He was a good supporter and a real power in Washington. Nevada was lucky to have a man of that stature, and he was responsible for a

few pieces of legislation that would ride in Washington for a few years to come.

At this time we have a movement politically that was called the Young Turk Movement. What do you know of this and who were the major figures in the movement?

This was a group of young people who had returned from the war and had ideas of their own; some of them were members of this Chamber of Commerce movement like I was. But it was felt that the Republican party had fallen into the hands of remnants of this Getchell-Wingfield clique and people of that type who were getting old. And we had a Democratic governor and a Democratic senator, Pat McCarran, and it was time that we got a Republican back in Washington, and Cliff Young became one of the Young Turks. He was a young lawyer in town. Les Gray who was basically a Democrat in my opinion, his family was, became a Republican though, and he was part of the Young Turk Movement. There were many fine people, but I never espoused to their philosophy too much. They were a little bit on the liberal side; they were young people; they were not business people; they were politicians and lawyers and people on the fringes of business. And I was never a definite part of the Young Turk Movement. While it had certain aspects that I did agree with, I didn't fall in with them too much. I was in business and was associating with businessmen, and Nevada was growing in the business world. I wanted it to stay growing in a business way, not the socialist way.

So, are you tying the Young Turk Movement to socialism?

Somewhat. It was never openly revealed to be that, but I think many of the key figures in

the Young Turk Movement were pretty liberal in their philosophy, if the truth were known.

Liberal in what sense in Reno in 1950?

In that they were welfare orientated and felt that the income tax would be probably a good thing. They were for more public spending on the public education system. They were espousing federal help which the country was starting to become accustomed to, and, instead of trying to shut it off after the war like most of us Republican businessmen were trying to do, they wanted to extend it and to continue it. Many of those emergency programs during the depression and during the war years when we were a nation at war had been temporary pieces of legislation given to the congress and to the president. We felt that the war was over and it was time to shut these off and abolish them, but the Young Turk Movement was for a continuation of them. And this was where I parted with them mainly.

Who was their leader?

Well, I wouldn't say that it was one individual. There were the Young Democrats in the Democratic party, so they felt there should be the Young Republicans in the Republican party; I've named two, Cliff Young and Les Gray. There were many others... Several attorneys... Les Fry... People who are still present in Reno... Good people... I don't say they weren't good people... Just that they were of that philosophy, liberal philosophy.

So in 1952 we see your entry into politics, the legislative race.

This was an outgrowth of my Chamber of Commerce associations and the Rotary

Club and the Motel Association. I had become prominent in the motel business in the state and having been a local president, state president, and finally a director of the National Motel Association — on the board of governors — and, since our state was so tourist orientated, it was natural that a man deeply involved in the tourist industry would gravitate toward the legislature to support things that were conducive to the tourist industry. Then I found much strong support for my candidacy.

Who were some of the other candidates that you ran against in the legislative race of 1952?

There were many young men around town. The Nevada State Legislature seems to attract young men. The older businessmen are too busy to serve, so they encourage young businessmen in the Republican party. I think we had a slate of eight Republicans each time. Eight Republicans run against eight Democrats and that was the general election race. You want the name of some of the other Democrats?

Or Republicans.

I would be hard put to remember those who were not elected.

How well did you know figures such as Leslie Lerude?

Leslie Lerude was a registered Republican although he had been a labor union organizer in his younger days. He ran a restaurant in town, the Wigwam Coffee Shop which became a famous little restaurant in Reno. I got to know him very well; he was elected the same time I was. I think the second time also. He and I got along very well until we came

to some labor legislation that I would oppose him on.

How about Herbert L. Covington?

Covington was a labor man, a Democrat from Sparks, and he and I were about 180 degrees apart at all times.

How about Clarence Ruedy?

Clarence Ruedy was a fellow Republican, a fine old gentleman, much older. He had been in the legislature previously and was quite knowledgeable. He was a good conservative Republican, and it was a pleasure to work with him.

What were some of the issues at this time? The major issues that candidates were running on in 1952?

Now we are talking about 1953, and, up to this time, here, we had been through the depression and through the war. We still had on the books in Nevada very little new legislation to counter, help, or offset the rapid growth we were having. It was obvious to everybody that some major changes were going to have to be made in the state government and the laws of the state in order to accommodate this rapid growth. First the growth was exceeding the tax structure. The growth always moves in before the tax base comes up; it takes several years for the tax base to reflect rapid growth. The property tax was not able to carry the necessary burden of state government, so they had to turn to gambling. Well, gambling prior to the war had not been such a great thing in the state, and the entertainment angle of gambling had not been here at all. So following the war there were a couple of new hotels going

up in Vegas, and Vegas was starting to show its head. Now in Reno we had nearly more people than we had slot machines and tables to accommodate them, so they started to tax gambling, to modify the rules and regulations, to make it easier to open a gaming establishment. This put considerable burden on the city councils and the county commissioners to police and organize the areas in which gambling would be held. So the state was constantly upping the gambling tax. And it appeared to me and many others that it might be possible to overtax gambling to where you turned to cheating to make money, and we didn't want that to occur. So even the businessmen felt there was a need for a new tax. I never felt that there was a need for a new tax because there was plenty of money coming in if the state didn't get into welfare. But by the state taking over the historic chores of the county and cities and putting it on a state basis then the state fell way short of the funds to finance the statewide welfare program.

How were they taxing gambling prior to 1953?

Each slot machine had a tax, and each table had a tax. It was in increments and it changed every time the legislature met, by the way. But it was a modest tax, and it got up to about 2% of the gross, then 4% of the gross, 6% of the gross income, and so on. And it was producing 5 million dollars, 7 million dollars, 12 million dollars. Today its producing over a hundred million, I guess. Ah, and I thought there was enough money to carry the state if they'd stay out of welfare. Stopping these great welfare spending programs was a full time job. In fact, they couldn't be stopped and they weren't stopped because they were participating programs with federal money. Everybody took the position you're denying

the state their share of the federal funds if you don't institute the program. Because it's 50% federally funded or 60% or 75%, some of them were totally federally funded. But you had. to set up a state organization to do it. The state bureaucracy... My general philosophy was to fight this all the way. This was socialism, the kind which I felt the communists were pushing hard. The thing was a matter of some kind of compromise. Then to top off that, the school system was getting bogged down. We had the old original school plants, and this phenomenal growth was taking place. After the war, the baby bulge was a tremendous thing, and we just had to have new school buildings, new school facilities, new school books. It was a terrible drain on the state, the counties and the cities. Because the cities and the counties and the school districts had historically shared in the \$5.00 constitutional limit of our state. And by the schools demanding more and more the cities had to have more, the counties had to have more; their problems were increasing the same. So the feeling was in the state that the schools needed some state support far beyond anything they'd ever had in the past. And I agreed with that. My disagreement was that there wasn't money enough to do it without new taxes. Here we were facing a new tax burden, sales tax or a new income tax or a new franchise tax of some kind or a much heavier tax on gambling. And the feeling was, if you taxed gambling too heavily you'd be so dependent upon gambling that the gamblers could call the politics; all the industry in the state would be at the mercy of gambling; and nobody wanted that. So the idea was to put the brakes on gambling tax a little bit and institute a new tax on the people. And herein is where the problems started in the 1953 session, and they went on and they're still going on.

At this time, in the 1953 legislature, your leader was Governor Russell, a Republican. What was your relationship with him and how did he affect the assembly?

The fact that Governor Russell was a Republican was of a great help to me and all the other Republicans from Washoe County. Appreciate that the entire delegation from Washoe County was Republican... Except for one, I believe... A Democrat from Sparks. Whereas the Clark County delegation was essentially Democratic with one or two Republicans. And around the state it was pretty much Republican except from Ely, the mining town, there was a Democrat. So we had a majority of Republicans in the legislature in '53 if I recall correctly. No, we did not have a majority... I can't recall correctly. The senate was solid Republican, not solid but a majority of Republicans pretty consistently and had been for years. But we did have a good number of Republicans. We never were in a majority in the assembly; we were always a minority party. But Governor Russell strengthened our hand tremendously. And I know on several occasions he asked me to introduce some legislation for him. He and I had a good relationship. Except for one particular bill which came up I think in the '56 or '57 or '55 session, I guess it was... the aid to dependent children.

But getting back to this full growth, I think in 1953 we appropriated a considerable sum of money to hire the Peabody Institute which was a school research organization... back East I believe ... known as the Peabody Group to make a study of what we should do in the state of Nevada education-wise in order to funnel more state funds into the school districts. Prior to this, each little school district was represented by its own school board elected amongst the people whose children went to

school. I remember Jiggs out of Elko, a little community with only seven or eight children who went to school. I had good friends who were on the school board who literally knew nothing. They were uneducated men themselves. They admitted they shouldn't be serving on the school board, but there was no one else to serve. Their main problem was to hire one teacher. If they got her hired, they figured their main chores were done. This sort of thing was becoming pretty archaic. Plus Vegas and Reno's school districts were becoming huge and out of hand. The system was wrong. So, I think in the next session then the Peabody people reported back with the Peabody Report. And they recommended county consolidation... that of the seventeen counties in Nevada there could be seventeen school districts with one or two exceptions. Eureka and Lander counties were pretty small counties; Esmeralda hardly had enough people to make a county. So I think it was consolidated with Nye and we had sixteen school districts... all at the county level except for that one combination. This is what they recommended. Then to do that there was a certain amount of money that would have to be appropriated at the state level to assist these school districts and help them get started and help them build buildings because they wanted to bring up the standards of the county schools to some decency and a comparable level to the city schools. The cities had to have some huge new buildings, high schools particularly, and it was going to take a lot of money. I-low would you proportion it among the various students and the various school districts of the counties of the state? This became the problem. So they came up with taking into consideration the average daily attendance of the schools. Each teacher/pupil ratio would be paid so much. So if you had a country school with only eight students

and one teacher ... whereas Reno or Las Vegas with a school of 2,000 in a high school and fifty teachers ... you'd have a formula there. So we came up with the ADA, average daily attendance formula.

Who were the originators of this?

This was the Peabody Report. I think it was modified somewhat. The Peabody had made a study I believe in Utah and Idaho, and we talked to some of their legislators and their school people and checked on what Peabody was reporting to us. The Peabody people were very efficient and there was good research. The outgrowth was that we all pretty much went along with it.

Whose idea was it to bring in this organization?

I think we started first thing in the '53 legislature; we appropriated some money to get that started. In a legislative action you never know who the individual is or if there is an individual. You get down to have lunch in a restaurant sometime with four or five fellas, and they say well let's get together and do this. Four or five go back to the legislature and draw up a bill. Well, no one man did but four or five did. But we had a couple of educators in the legislature; I had two or three children coming along in school; I was close to the schools. I talked to our Superintendent of Public Instruction here, Earl Wooster; I had many meeting with him at length. And we talked over many of these things; so did many of the other legislators. And our Reno delegation, I think, did a commendable job. We took to the legislature many good, worthwhile concepts. We picked up from our experience working with our school people here, because, after all, Reno had one of the larger school districts in the state.

Were there any significant lobbyists at this time for changing the educational system in Nevada?

Oh yes, yes, there were many. This wasn't unique to Nevada; this was going on in many other states. The National Education Association, the national association for the teachers, had lobbyists here. We were heavily lobbied at the Nevada legislature by out of state lobbyists ... national organizations, national textbook people, national bureaucrats from Washington in the federal school system, and we had the Catholic church school system and the Mormon church school system, and the many sects in long operated schools. These people were here from all over the Western states and back East too. We asked for them, we wanted them. We wanted information; we didn't want to make a mistake. It was a comprehensive and massive piece of legislation because it was going to take forty or fifty bills, separate bills to be introduced and passed to make the thing work, to proportion the money, to select the auditors, the funding of the thing through the controller's office, the legislative council bureau's drafting and working of the bills. It was a tremendous job. And it took much time. It was not all ironed out. Immediately after the '53 session, Governor Russell had to call a special '54 session to iron out some of our mistakes and shortcomings of the '53 session. A couple voids appeared. We hadn't tackled it all.

It seems that the biggest problem with this education bill was financing — whether gambling tax, property tax, sales tax, or state income tax. Who were the proponents and what were the problems with these taxes?

This is the frosting on the cake, of course. The school system we envisioned could not be instituted without state money, and the

state did not have the money in its coffers or any way of acquiring it under the present tax structure, So a whole new tax approach had to be made. I recall or felt that welfare would have to take a deep shellacking for a while in order to furnish money for the schools. Then later when we built up the treasury, welfare could get back in the picture. But I think I was alone in that field; nobody else would go along with that concept. Generally the outside lobbyists were pushing a new tax. I think even the businessmen recognized and realized we couldn't continue in the tax base we had in the past. And they were starting to cave in and allow the thinking of a new tax. So up jumped the income tax because that was so popular at the federal level and many other states. A state income tax had long been an anathema to Nevada because our haven for the wealthy who were here, who had been here, and who had made our state the excellent place to live that it had been. Everybody wanted to protect that facet. We did not like an income tax. Even the Democrats were not too fond of it, particularly the conservative Democrats. So, the income tax looked like it would have a rough go, so then came the sales tax. Well, the sales tax is known to be a regressive tax; every time you sell something you have to add more on. Ultimately a product might get hurt because the tax on it would be so high. So a tax, a sales tax, was tossed around. It wasn't easy to come by. But in order to finance the school system, to spend a lot of money on the Peabody Report ... the Peabody Report was in. Everybody was pretty well decided that the Peabody Report would be adopted. There was a crush to finance it. In came the bills. There were many types of sales tax — taxing on food, not taxing food, taxing utilities like home utilities like fuel oil and electricity, not taxing that, taxing automobiles heavily and liquor extremely heavily, cigarettes heavier

yet, making it very modest on food and all of these various facets made it tough.

So at this time we're talking about taxes. Now Norman Biltz was a large financier of Nevada, and men like Charlie Mapes or Bill Harrah had great interests. What sort of tax were they interested in or agreeable to?

Those were the very people starting a response or starting to be agreeable to the sales tax. Now the theory of the sales tax is that it reaches everybody, the poor man and the little man as well as the wealthy. The wealthy man, of course, wants to distribute the tax base as widely as possible in order for him to avoid paying an undo share. This part is fine. I was agreeable to that aspect, but the aspect I didn't like is that particularly for the middle class, the small man, the sales tax is not deductible from his federal income tax because he doesn't keep receipts. A person goes out and buys an automobile and pays \$200 sales tax on the purchase of a domestic car not a business car but just for his private use. He has no way of getting that deduction out of his income tax for federal purposes. And here we're putting a huge tax load on the people of the state without them benefiting from the deductions. A man of business buys a bunch of wire for a home he's building for someone; he just adds it to the cost of the wire, and it is a deductible expense, but the little man gets hooked on that even though the federal government allows a little deduction. It doesn't allow enough.

What were your constituents asking for? What were they agreeable to?

The labor people hate and despise the sales tax because they're aware of the fact it taxes the laboring man. It taxes everything they

buy, and they're trying to protect the little people. Their idea is to soak the rich. The rich man's idea is not to soak the little man, but to distribute it widely. So that where you have the two sides of the coin.

What were your constituents asking for?

I was sort of in the middle on the thing except that while I despise the income tax, particularly the progressive income tax, I despise it vehemently, I was aware of the fact that the federal government was taking out of the state of Nevada through its income tax about \$500,000,000 at that time. This is what the internal revenue service was collecting and sending to Washington. It occurred to me that we don't need a new tax of any kind. What we need to do is to divert part of this money that's going to Washington back to Nevada. I said if we could tax the government's collection we'd have something. So I started looking around. I didn't like the sales tax. As I say, it's a regressive tax; it hurts everybody and you don't get the benefit of the deduction. I didn't really feel we needed a tax despite the fact that school people were hollering for new money. I saw this tremendous income from gambling. I saw this tremendous outgo on welfare which I'm bitterly opposed to.

What were the local people feeling, the people in Reno? Were they for a new tax? What were their feelings? How did your constituents feel?

How do you know? How do you know what your constituents think? You know one man, you know another man, you know what those two think. There's no way of judging what your constituents think. They think largely about what they read in the newspapers.

What were the newspapers propounding?

The newspapers are liberal. They've always been liberal. They always will be liberal until something changes. So anything in the form of socialism the newspapers support.

In Nevada in 1952?

Yes, they were supporting an income tax. But when the sales tax seemed to be getting strong impetus, they even went along with the sales tax. The point was, they were supporting a new tax. And here I am dedicated to the prohibition of any new tax. But, if there must be a tax, I felt that we should short circuit the tax that was already here, the federal income tax. I stumbled across the so-called Alaska Plan. It was the state income tax instituted in Alaska. And we arrived at this concept.

Who is we?

Myself and the people I was working with getting this together, a few constituents who believed like I did.

Who were they?

Ah, Tom Kean, I think, was working pretty much on that... well, actually, some old internal revenue people who had retired ... I can't remember the man's name now who had been giving me the information. Anyway, I'll take responsibility on it, for it was my idea, and I was pushing it. If we could short circuit this federal money through the state income tax, we'd have something. So, I said we'll institute a state income tax based on the Alaska Plan which is ten percent of what the federal government collects. You figure up your federal income tax as if there were no state tax, and, if it comes to \$600 you owe

the government, you take ten percent of \$60 and you pay that to the state first. Then you deduct that \$60 from your taxable income at the federal level and you reduce it not the full \$60 but you might reduce it \$50. So then only \$10 would go to the federal government and \$50 would go to the state government. And the individual would only have to pay \$10 more. He pays \$70 total tax instead of \$60. So it wouldn't hurt the individual too much.

Would you elaborate upon the Alaska Plan?

The Alaska Plan is an income tax proportioned upon the federal income tax. We had the bill drafter write to Alaska and get a copy of it. I simply introduced that. I think we changed the rate of taxation a bit to ten percent, as I recall, to raise the so-called fifty million dollars that Nevada was reportedly short. They were short because of the extensive welfare program build-ups. The Alaska Plan was an income tax wherein you computed the federal tax and then took a percentage of it for the state tax, entered that, and recomputed your federal tax with that state deduction.

Well, the principle was that particularly those in the higher tax bracket ... the deduction to the state was substantial so that their federal income tax wasn't so high. Again I say I was trying to short circuit some of the federal money that was being drained out of the state. We estimated that to be about \$500,000,000 a year in those years. I didn't like an income tax, I didn't want an income tax. But it was a way to counter any other type tax. I knew that an income tax could not possibly be put through the legislature. It was a rather malicious and facetious move on my part in that I introduced it as rather a political interworking situation wherein I knew it couldn't pass, yet I was going to support it. Supporting my own tax I wasn't

obligated to vote for anyone else's tax. That's really what it amounts to.

Who were the opponents to this tax?

The business community at large and the Republican party as a whole were opposed to any form of income tax because the absence of an income tax was what Nevada was advertising and what was attracting wealth. That together with no tax upon intangibles such as stocks and bonds and annuities made Nevada relatively tax free for the relatively wealthy. This was a great attraction to our state and was bringing in a considerable number of high caliber people who we did want. An income tax would tend to alienate them. The opposition, of course, we knew would be a sales tax that the labor people and the Democrats and the liberals were opposing so bad. The business community wanted a sales tax. The liberal-labor community wanted an income tax, and it put me in the awkward position of seeming to be on the side of the labor group and here I was openly opposed to that segment of our legislature. But it backfired on me in that when I ran the third time everyone thought I was advocating an income tax, and it probably hurt me politically because my own constituency was sales tax oriented. But I felt in my heart we didn't need any kind of tax. The way to raise money was to knock off the welfare spending of the state because our tax base on the ad valorem tax plus the gambling tax was all the money we needed to run a state government.

James "Sailor" Ryan, the labor leader at that time, wanted an increase in gambling tax. How did you feel about this?

Yes "Sailor" Ryan was a very vociferous and noisy character from Las Vegas ... being

a labor union organizer and leader and was pretty high up in the labor hierarchy... He was very pro income tax and wanted to tax the gambling interests too. He was not in love with gambling although he recognized what they were doing for the state because at that time the gaming industry was not organized. They were trying to organize it even in those days. He was pretty mad at the gaming industry and was for taxing the heck out of them. The rest of us knew that if we taxed gaming too heavily we could hurt it, drive it underground, or drive it into crooked manipulations and cheating, and we didn't want to do that. Legitimate gamblers in the state were quite willing to pay a reasonable tax, but they couldn't afford an excessive tax more than anybody else could.

Did the casino owners and gamblers have a large influence in Carson City at this time, a large lobby group, that is?

No, not really. The gaming industry in Nevada at that time was a pretty up and up, honest, sincere, and decent group of people. They were dominated by the Reno interests considerably though there were two or three casinos in Vegas.

Who were the Reno interests?

The Reno interests were Raymond I. Smith from Harold's Club, Bill Harrah from Harrah's Club, and there were some smaller casinos at the time. The Palace Club, the Bank Club, which was coming to an end, but they were pretty decent and respectable people as a whole.

Certainly they must have had some lobby groups in Carson City.

They had lobbyists there, yes. They had an association and the secretary of the association was there constantly. But they didn't have a great vote. They had money behind them, but they didn't exercise it wildly. They didn't interfere in politics too much as long as politics were such that they could exist and politics wasn't causing them any trouble. All businessmen in the state recognized what gambling was doing for Nevada. We were so thankful to have gaming income as well as other income that it had wide support. They didn't have to have a potent lobby group, but they were there for information purposes because the gambling industry is an intricate and sophisticated industry that the average man knows nothing about. And certainly as an assemblyman I wasn't knowledgeable about the inner workings of gambling and how much tax it could bare. Although, after four years I did know a good deal about it. During one of our sessions, I forget which one it was now, the Las Vegas interests invited the entire legislature down there for what we called a lost weekend ... all on the house. We went down on a National Guard airplane as I recall. The governor went with us. The entire legislature went, I think, plus the press corps. We stayed two or three days in the hotels and had all our board and room and plenty to drink, free. It was an informative weekend. We met all the owners of the gaming businesses there, and they took us around and showed us in the daytime a few of the outlying communities such as Henderson ... and what was happening there since the war and the conversion of Henderson into private industry. It was most informative. I came back more knowledgeable about it, despite the fact that at times it was a kind of wild party, particularly the night sessions with free entertainment.

Governor Charles Russell called a special session in 1954, the first special session in twenty-seven years. The reason for this was financing education. What happened during that special session?

I can't recall to any great extent exactly what the problems were. They were ramifications of oversights in our original legislation the year before with the Peabody formula trying to be adopted, and there were a couple of voids that showed up that made it totally unworkable. It had to do with the disbursement of the various funds to the various schools on the basis of student enrollment plus the teachers. As I recall we mishandled the teacher situation. We had to take into consideration the number of students enrolled plus the teachers. As I recall this was the number of students in daily attendance plus the number of teachers that had to be on hand to take care of that. And if the teachers were on duty and the children didn't show, you still had to pay the teachers. So we had to modify the disbursement formula a little bit to take care of that. In a small school with say only three teachers — and it was expected that all three teachers would be needed there and yet perhaps one of the entire classes didn't show up that day — you still had to pay that teacher because you called her. And this happens quite often when there's an epidemic or disease situation. Unquestionably we're trying to balance out the class/teacher ratio, so we don't have huge classes with only one teacher and then one teacher with only a few students. We were trying to balance it out with only twenty-five to thirty students per day for each teacher, as I recall. There were two or three things like that that necessitated a special session. Furthermore, the funds that we had created to finance the schooling were going to be delayed six months to nine

months, as I recall. Property tax valuations are always a year late. You collect in one year the assessments that were set up the previous year. They're always late coming in. And to institute a new expenditure that is effective immediately, you must remember that the taxes to pay for it are going to be a year late. I think we had to make some special general fund disbursements in that special session.

Nevada was witnessing an incredible growth rate at this time.

Yes, they were. I recall at this time we were getting this postwar baby boom. It was coming out in the lower grades of the grade schools; it hadn't hit the high schools or colleges yet, but we knew it was coming soon. It was kind of like watching an ostrich swallow a coconut. You could see it start down its throat, and little by little it went on down until it got to the body. The young body at that time was the university. At this time classroom space and teachers for the primary grades were real critical, because of this postwar baby boom which was about an eight to ten year extension. And you could just see that group of babies move through the school system.

How well .informed was the average assemblyman at this time as far as taxes go? Did you have tax experts come in and help you understand the situation or was it strictly original research by the assemblymen themselves?

Well, there was a small nucleus of assemblymen that did delve into the educational programs of the country and in various other states, but none of us were experts on it. We did have many experts who were there from universities, and I think

the education lobby itself which is always a potent lobby. The average legislator cannot be knowledgeable in everything. And if it weren't for professional lobbyists and experts in their particular field no legislation in this state could possibly function. I do entirely approve of the facts and figures that dedicated and detailed experts are able to furnish to a legislature.

The March 6, 1953 Territorial Enterprise says about the state income tax, "It was childish legislation proposed in the lower house and aimed at placating the state's most arrogant yet completely expendable minority pressure group, the school block." Now this is an extreme view. How did you feel about this school block? Did you think they were positive in asking for their reasons?

Yes. The school block is a very potent group because they do represent literally everybody in the state; they represent every child; they represent every parent, they'd like to claim. They represent all the teachers. In fact, they represent the general population, but the leaders of these school groups are thinking their own thoughts. They have no more way of judging what the general population thinks than does a legislator or any other individual man. But they take the position that they do know; and, therefore, they are arrogant, positive, and vociferous. They're there constantly, and they seem to be well financed. I have long looked with a jaundiced eye upon some of the legislative lobbying groups from education.

What are some of your personal recollections of members of the assembly at that time?

That is a matter of opinion. I don't suppose any two men in the legislature would agree

completely upon the type of people their fellow legislators are or were, but the legislature, the assembly at least, was a broad cross section of our society, and it's probably well it was that. How some of the men got elected I will never know. We had two that literally could not read or write beyond sign their own name and read the amounts on their paycheck. They could not read the bills; they could not understand the words; and to my knowledge they could not make a speech to explain their own position. Not that they were bad sort of fellas. We were all so sympathetic to them that we all kind of went along with them. Many hours were spent explaining things to these men. On the other hand, there were various astute people in the assembly, lawyers and businessmen who were well educated and highly informed. The legislature as a whole is not a very aristocratic group of people. They are famous in their own community for some specific reason ... maybe one became famous because he married somebody's daughter that was prominent therefore he could be elected. But, by in large, I was extremely disappointed with the caliber of people in the legislature. Knowing that I was not well qualified myself, I felt that certainly I would be at the bottom of the list and everybody else there would be more knowledgeable than I was, but I was in for a rude awakening. I found myself perhaps in the so-called upper group, but the average legislator is a disappointment I think to the public, but who knows. You don't know what a man is until after he's in office and he starts to perform, and the legislature is no exception. I found it disconcerting to be there with people who were so bigoted, such hypocrites, such a lack of intelligence and education particularly — not that that's everybody. We had a few very good men.

Were some of the proposals passed by the backroom method, by working through political

hacks and so forth, working with special interest outside of the assembly itself? Did members get together and decide they would pass this bill for special reasons?

Well, yes. There are always special interests, and certain special interests maintained their man in the legislature at all times. It's long been known that there are railroad interests, and the railroad did go to no end of trouble to see that at least a few in the legislature were definitely pro-railroad, whether they were Democrats or Republicans was of no importance. There was always a railroad lobby there. And the labor group, of course, always had several strong pro-labor men, openly pro-labor, labor leaders, labor organizers, and a powerful lobby working with them. There were backroom manipulations in each of those groups, and they would come forth with a bill that the members would know nothing about until it hit the floor. Sometimes they would try to whiz them through without adequate study. Generally they were slowed down. A pretty good look was taken. But many times the bills did get through because many members did not understand them. If a fellow Democrat did not understand a bill one of his colleagues had introduced, he'd go along with him anyway whether he understood it or not simply because of the politics of the thing. This is one of the crimes of the legislative process really. Such a wide disparity and such a wide field of bills introduced, six hundred or eight hundred introductions all the way from angleworms and fishing worms to air space for aircraft. There is just no end to all the problems that face society, and they're all introduced in the legislature sooner or later.

As a motel owner and assemblyman at one point you attacked the Reno City Council on the housing issue. They were trying to build public

housing in 1953. What are your recollections of this event?

I believe my involvement in that particular hassle in the city of Reno was responsible for my running for the legislature. It was probably responsible for my being elected to the legislature. Most of this public housing and urban renewal and housing for the indigents and downtrodden was emanating from Washington. The local people did not want it. We had people here with much rental property, and this cheap rental housing financed by the federal government participated in by the state in a minor way would tend to wreck the rent structure. That's exactly the way I felt about it ... and that Reno was well able to take care of its own housing problems. Private industry would provide the housing when there was an opportunity to make a profit. It didn't really matter if they were cheap cabins or exclusive castles; industry will provide what the demand demands. It may be a few years late getting caught up, and sometimes there's a little over building, but to have the federal government interfere just because somebody in Washington felt there must be some people in Reno who weren't well housed was an anathema to most of us. It certainly was to me. The city council seemed to be taking the position they ought to be getting this federal money in to Reno no matter what happened. The whole thing was ridiculous in my book, still is. I think this was largely responsible for my being elected because I campaigned on that issue pretty strongly in all three of my runnings.

At this time Nevada was, in a sense, sticking up for states' rights vs. the huge federal bureaucracy. At this time in 1953 did the average assemblyman and the average citizen feel that the federal government was growing at too fast of a rate and too large?

Yes, definitely. The average man on the street was convinced that the federal government was not getting out of its wartime powers like it should. For instance rent control. Getting back to the housing. One of the first war regulations we had to enjoy. The idea was that when the war was over they'd take off rent control, and they were several years relieving us from rent control after the war was over. And most people didn't like that. But government is always reluctant to give up any of its powers of the federal bureaucracies. These great bureaucracies had been created to handle these wartime problems. They didn't want to dissolve. And states' rights is really the issue all right. Every state in the union had the same problem. A specific instance of my getting involved in that housing thing evolved into a TV program in which the mayor at the time was Len Harris. His housing urban renewal, I think, was actually the problem. But there was public housing woven into the fabric. There was Jay Baker. They were both friends of mine, in a sense. We went on TV when one of the stations requested us. They explained their side. It was a debate. They explained their side of the problem, and I explained mine. We got into a real Donnybrook right on TV. Mayor Harris accusing me of violating the Republican faith and opposing Senator Robert A. Taft because Taft was for urban renewal. I took the position that Taft was for a few urban renewal units as opposed to hundreds of thousands of urban renewal units, and he was trying to break it down in Washington just like I was in Reno. But Mayor Harris made me kind of mad saying that I was revolting from the Republican tenets just because Taft was involved. Jay Baker who was there with him ... Jay and I have become pretty good friends ... but at the time I was disgusted with both of them. We had quite a hot TV session, and I guess the public liked it.

TV at this time was relatively new as a device for spreading the word, a new sort of news media. Was it used widely during this time in 1953?

Yes, all politicians were turning to TV pretty heavily, and we were no exception here in Reno. The stations did not have very elaborate program set-up at that time, so they were hungry for any sort of debate they could create of local interest. We were frequently asked to appear, and always when we were running we'd appear two or three times. Of course, some of the boys paid for TV advertising. I don't think I ever did. I stayed with a few ads in the newspapers and that was about the extent of my paying for advertising.

What were the most significant items on the agenda in the 47th session of the legislatures?

The 47th session was in 1955. This was the second time I ran and was elected. I think perhaps the hottest issue that time was the gambling bill. We still had a lot of the education problem to clean up from the previous session, but the new and most important ... because of the heavy taxes that were starting to be imposed upon gaming ... and the '53 and special session did impose some new taxes on gaming and the rate was getting pretty high and the federal government was stepping into gambling tax, believe it or not ... with a \$50 a machine tax as I recall. Up to this time the Nevada State Tax Commission had been administering the gambling licenses for the entire state. The Nevada State Tax Commission had been set up many, many years before to administer the tax distribution amongst the counties and to collect the state's part of the ad valorem tax. One of the big chores, of course, was to tax the railroads. They had been given this gambling tax as

they were a tax commission, but gambling was such a disparate industry from anything previous ... entirely different from agriculture ... entirely different from the ad valorem tax ... entirely different from the railroad problems or mining ... that they felt there should be a new gaming commission with great authority to control, police, administer, and collect the tax from the gaming industry to see that we didn't get any bad guys in the state that were known to be bad in other states and to fairly collect the tax and see that everybody paid ... and that the whole thing was equitable. Well, we had nothing to go on at this time, for no other state in the union had legalized gambling. We were unique in that respect, and it was a devil of a problem. But we sat down, and I would say that we probably did more basic research and original thinking there than on any other single piece of legislation. I know I finally wound up on one of the house compromise committees between the senate and the assembly. I sat with Newt Crumley and George Von Tobel, I believe. George was from Vegas ... with Senator Gallagher from Ely ... and I can't recall the others on that ... but there had been several committees attempting to write a bill that would be amenable to both the house and the senate. And it couldn't be done. Those who felt if you gave one man or a small group of men too much power they would abuse it, and there would be great bribery in the industry. Well, there's always that possibility, and yet if you had a large group controlling it, there couldn't be any effective administration. So, I took the position and I agreed pretty much with Newt Crumley ... and Newt had a gambling establishment in Elko at that time ... he was senator from Elko County and had been a leader in bringing in entertainment to the state ... we looked to him for some new ideas in gaming, and he had a few. He said let's set up an institution that if

they don't like the way a man combs his hair, he won't get a licensee I said it feel that that is the way it should be too. Let them have absolute control because gaming is here by a permissiveness. It is an allowed thing. It is not a right, an inherent right of anybody to gamble or to set up a gambling institution. It is permissive legislation, and we can permit just so much and no more. But there were those, particularly from Vegas, who wanted it a little more lax because Vegas was growing so fast they were afraid that the north end of the state would tend to cool the growth in the southern end of the state. This is not true. There might have been a little of that innuendo in the background, but our problem was to keep thugs out, Detroit gangster types from getting in to Las Vegas. I was pretty sure they wouldn't get in to Reno because our present gamblers here were policing themselves carefully, but in Vegas there were no old line, loyal gaming institutions, and anybody could get into Vegas who had the money to build a new hotel. It had to be watched very, very closely. As a matter of fact, we did set up the first gaming control board, the first gaming commission in that '55 legislature, I think.

You were on the public institutions committee, what were your duties on this committees?

Well, essentially, the committee had been established to watch over all of the various state institutions, like the industrial school, the state mental hospital and the state prison, those institutions that were administered by the state. It was an important committee.

I recall one particular instance when Governor Russell called me down to his office and said, "Rod, you're on the public institutions committee." And I said, "Yes." He said, "I'm going to ask you a favor." And I said, "Well, go ahead governor, I'll be glad to

help." He said, "We're having trouble with Dr. Tillim, the administrator of the state hospital in Sparks." I said, "Oh, really? I know Dr. Tillim quite well, I visit with him often." He is interested in some legislation here; I had a conference with him just the other day." He said, "Well, I know that and I thought you might know him that's why I'm asking you to do this, We feel that Dr. Tillim is a good doctor by gosh but he's been giving us nothing but trouble, in his administration of the hospital as far as letting us know how much money he needs, when he needs it, how he's spent it, his travel allotments, and his travel allowances are grossly out of order. He takes off, leaves the state and will stay a week. It may be worthwhile and a necessary trip but we don't know why he is gone." And he said, "We'd like to set up at the hospital to handle these reports, because he is causing the controller no end of trouble. Fred Dressler here is a member of the mental hospital committee and he keeps telling me that, and the others of the committee too that Dr. Tillim is awfully hard to work with in the detailed administration end of it. I said," Well, I wouldn't be surprised myself, I kind of feel that way too, but I didn't know these kind of conditions existed. He said, "I'd like to have you. study these problems here and check with my staff out front about the kind of problems they're having with Dr. Tillim. I'd like to have you introduce a bill then setting up, we have one drawn up here, setting up a business manager, and letting Dr. Tillim be in absolute control as far as the medical facet of it is concerned. But get him out of the financial part and the business administration." I think I said, "That's the part he likes the best." He said, "Well, that's just the problem, we know he does but he's not well versed in how to do it. "I thought the governor was reasonable about it and Fred Dressler told me stories

about the things they had had with Dr. Tillim. He's a good psychiatrist and we needed him but I'll never forget I was kind of shocked that the governor had asked me to do that when it was my own institution, in our own back yard there in Washoe and I knew Dr. Tillim so well. I had been supporting the man because of his medical approach, I didn't know about these business things. But the governor gave me the bill and I took it up there and introduced it. When it hit the floor, boy the far did fly. Dr. Tillim was over bright and early the next morning. And the pow wow was started. But that is the way our legislature is. We finally did get it through; we had to modify it some. The business manager didn't get as much power as the governor wanted, because Dr. Tillim had the final say so. I think that was all right or at least for the transition period.

During the 47th session there was a bill introduced on the University of Nevada financing that institution, did you have any dealings with that bill?

Well, I remember that we had some terrible rhubarbs with the University. Let me think a minute of the personalities involved there.

Yes, there was some mention of the president of the university and a legislator.

The president of the university at that time was Minard Stout. Yes, I recall that escapade. I think just the year before this and possibly two years before this Dr. Stout had come to Nevada to be president after a long interim period after Dr. Clark resigned... died. They had no president; they just had an administrator temporarily appointed. Dr. Stout was brought in from the Midwest with high recommendations though he had

never been president of a university before. He'd been director of a high school an accelerated high school of some kind I think in Wisconsin, or Minnesota. This was his first venture as the president of the university He was a little nervous in his job and he had sort of an arrogant air about him. He tended to talk down to people; it was hard for him to sit down quietly and smoke his pipe, so to speak, and to discuss a subject without becoming all flustered and irritated and half angry and take a high and mighty approach. He was very difficult to work with; it was just a mannerism with the man; I think he was sincere and tried to do the job but he couldn't get himself over. I remember Gary Adams, one of our fellow legislators, a young man, one of the youngest men in the house I believe Gary had been a gold medal student just a few years before. He was Al Adams' son, Gray Reid and Wright Adamases. He was a fine young man, newly married. He was a brilliant boy but greatly inexperienced himself, and strange as it may seem somewhat of the same mannerism as Dr. Stout. But he disapproved of many of the things Dr. Stout was doing. And one of the problems Gary was talking about was a small Board of Regents holding closed sessions with Dr. Stout. He was getting his way it seemed 100%. Gary tried to get into some of the regents meetings and couldn't get in. So darned if he didn't introduce a bill to expand the board's members, from five to eleven men and to hold open meetings that anyone could get into. Dr. Stout came over and I remember we had a meeting one night that went on till midnight with Gary questioning Dr. Stout. Stout was not an old man himself, I don't think but he was over 40 and Gary was about twenty five, and it was a real piece of entertainment. I don't recall what came out of it, but I believe the bill did increase the number of regents but not as many as Gary wanted. We did

increase it some and get a clause in to make public meetings announced in advance so citizens could get to the meetings if they had something they were interested about the university. The university was going through trying times then, for of course it was growing to and the plant had become rather run down during the war and they needed an awful lot of money. It seemed exorbitant at the time in relation to what they had been asking for in the past. But the institution was growing, and there was a strange thing.. there was apparently a need in Las Vegas for a three year junior college down there. And that subject came up when the university here in Reno was demanding huge amounts of funds. And of course the Vegas delegation wanted to get that college started down there.

One of your more famous bills that you introduced into the assembly and one that was passed was the license plate bill. Where did you get your idea from?

Yes, I was interested in that having been born and reared in the state and coming from Elko County then moving to Washoe County. This came about essentially from my being in the motel business, we are very conscious of license plates; that is how we can tell a tourist from a local person by the license plate on his car. Strange as it may seem we usually treat Californians differently than somebody from Illinois or New York or Pennsylvania because we know basically that they are different kinds of people. It's just a little idiosyncrasy from the business that you pick up. I thought it would be nice if you knew the Nevada cars and what county they are from, as the people of the various counties moved around. And there was a pride in each county in their own cars and their own registration ... how much taxes they were generating in the automobile fund. I

thought it would be a good idea, and they were starting to use letters as well as numbers on the license plates because the number system was getting too big. So I went to the motor vehicle department. Marvin Humphrey was director of the thing at that time, and I was surprised to find out that he was agreeable to the same idea. And we sat down, and he and I and one of his staff members quickly designed a lettering system that would fit. We had to be careful that we didn't get a county ending in I mixed up with the number one or an 1, so we let White Pine be WP and Elko be El. All of the counties would have two letters then the various numbers. But because of the huge registration of Clark and Washoe counties, we could only use one letter, so we made W for Washoe and C for Clark. I was rather surprised, because up to that time I had introduced no legislation at all that had come near passing, and this whipped through unanimously without a dissenting vote. I just accidentally tapped the consensus of the legislature as well as that of the state. I was amazed at the publicity I got out of it because I didn't consider it a very important bill.

In general, the decade of the 1950's in Nevada saw Nevada as the fastest growing state in the union, saw Nevada have the youngest average age group than any other state, saw Nevada bank assets double, saw a high per capita income. In other words, there was a big money boom, there was a housing boom, and of course all of these education problems were tied in with this growth. Did you feel that you were an up and coming state in 1953, that you were going to grow, and did the legislature want to help this growth?

Oh, yes I was in business at that time and looking forward to great things. We were all going to be millionaires shortly. It was a time

of taking chances, taking more risks than you normally would. Growth means inflation somewhat, property values were going up. It was a good feeling, it was fun to be in business.

It was a devil of a time to be in the legislature because of the problems all of this was creating: from a judicial standpoint and an administrative standpoint, for the governor and the various state departments. We didn't have a computer system, we had old archaic offices that had to be expanded, it was a very trying time. There were some very astute men, particularly in the senate who guided the thing. I think we were blessed with pretty good governors as a whole. Governor Russell I felt was an extremely good governor, because he was so easy to know, so easy to talk to, so easy to approach. He had no preconceived ideas that he would hang on to no matter what, so if they needed something rather than cause a ruckus he'd go along with them. Governor Carville had been governor just a few years before that. He was a loyal Nevadan and a very understanding man; he'd been a good governor. Vail Pittman, I'd think, was probably the least able, but he was a loyal Nevadan too. Vail Pittman was a Democrat, but they were in. Ted Carville was a Democrat too, but he called himself a Dixiecrat; he was a conservative Democrat. Dick Kerman was one of the state's leading bankers in those formative years. We had a series of good governors. In fact, I don't think we've had a real bad one. Pittman was the worst, but then he wasn't bad.

You mentioned there were several leaders in the senate at this time, pretty influential people. Who were some of these peoples?

The father of the senate, one of the oldest and continuous senators was Fred Settlemeyer from Gardnerville/Minden, a conservative

area. Fred was a Dutchman, a German, a very astute man ... a kind and courteous man, a highly knowledgeable man. He read consistently and knew his way around. He was an old man then. Senator Gallagher from Ely was a knowledgeable man ... a man who made it a point to continue his reading and stay up-to-date with things. These were all older men at that time. There were a couple of fine young men from Las Vegas. Mahlon Brown was a Democrat, a new senator about the time I went to the assembly. He was an attorney and a fine fellow; he fit right in very well. We had a lieutenant governor, Rex Bell, during one of our sessions. He was a famous personality, but Rex was a fine fellow. He was not a native Nevadan, but he was loyal to Nevada; he loved Nevada. He was a good politician, and he got along well with the Democrats. Just prior to Rex Bell we had Cliff Jones. We had Cliff Jones who was a young and up and coming fellow from Las Vegas. He kind of got himself in trouble in later years, but the time he was lieutenant governor and the president of the senate he was very effective and got along well. The senate in those days was one man from each county. The cow counties had fifteen votes, Washoe had one, and Clark had one. So there was no great domination of the state by the two population centers. I always thought that was good because the cow counties tend to stabilize some of these ambitious ideas that were emanating from Reno and Las Vegas.

What were your relations with M. E. McCuiston, Speaker of the Assembly?

Ted McCuiston became speaker of the assembly through rather a fluke. I don't know how many times this has happened in the past. We had in the '53 assembly what we called a coalition assembly. There was such a

wild rampant group of labor leading liberals in the Democratic party vs. a substantial conservative, down to earth Democrats led by Cyril Bastian and Ted McCuiston. Ted was from Elko and Cyril Bastian was from Lincoln County, Hiko ... very fine men ... they were Democrats but they were conservatives. Arid here was this wild labor bunch led by Sailor Ryan, Bill Embry, and that ilk from Clark County and the southern part of the state; even the Democrats couldn't stand them. So these conservative Democrats made an approach to us Washoe and northern state Republicans ... could we coalesce with you to vote in the officers of the assembly to prevent Ryan and that clique of wild jackasses from Las Vegas from running the whole legislature this year. We said why sure. We'll vote with you if you will let us have a representative seat on these committees. And they said we will. As Democrats we can't let you have a chairmanship. We'll be chairmen, but we'll only have one more Democrat than Republican on the committees. And we'll elect a conservative Democrat to be speaker of the house and not a wild one from the labor ranks of Las Vegas. If we don't coalesce, we're pretty sure Sailor Ryan will become speaker or Bill Embrey will be. So we went entirely through that session with a coalition set up of a few conservative Democrats coalesced with the total Republicans and were able to out vote the liberals. And Ted McCuiston became the speaker out of that. He never would have made it out of his own party alone. We Republicans voted him in.

Did this conflict with Sailor Ryan originate from the "Yellow Dog Bill," the right to work bill?

Somewhat, not exclusively. That was one of the many ramifications. Labor has always

got a multitude of wild, wild things. Common sites was a hot issue even then. It always is in any state legislature. The right to work bill was part of it. Even though the public had voted in the right to work, they wanted to change it at the legislative level. It wasn't only that...

ORIGINAL INDEX: FOR REFERENCE ONLY

In order to standardize the design of all UNOHP transcripts for the online database, they have been reformatted, a process that was completed in early 2012. This document may therefore differ in appearance and pagination from earlier printed versions. Rather than compile entirely new indexes for each volume, the UNOHP has made each transcript fully searchable electronically. If a previous version of this volume existed, its original index has been appended to this document for reference only. A link to the entire catalog can be found online at <http://oralhistory.unr.edu/>.

A

Adams, Gary, 53
Alaska, Finance Plan, 34, 35
Allen, 3, 4

B

Badt, Gertrude Nitze, 4
Badt, Milton, 4
Baker, J., 46
Bank Club, 37
Banking, 12
Bastian, Cyril, 58
Bell, Rex, 57
Biltz, Norman, 13, 14
Boulder Dam, 11
Brussard, William, 16

C

Carville, Ted, 56
Cattle, 2
Civilian Conservation Corps,
1-3, 4
Chamber of Commerce-Reno,
15-17, 20

Clark, Walter, 52
Crumley, Newton, 48, 49

D

Democratic Party, 4, 5, 30,
35, 43, 58, 59
Depression, 1, 4, 5-10, 13,
20
Divorce Trade, 10
Dressler, Fred, 51

E

Education, Public, 24, 26,
27, 36, 38, 39-41, 47
Elko, City of, 1, 4, 49
Elko, County of, 2, 4, 49, 54
Ely, 2, 25
Embry, William, 58

F

Fort Churchill, 1, 2, 3

G

Gallagher, Charles D., 48, 57
Gaming, 22-24, 29, 32, 36-37, 47

Gaming Control Board, 49-50
Getchell, Noble, 12, 14, 18
Gray, Les, 19, 20
Gray Reid and Wright C., 53
Growth, Nevadan, 22

H

Harrah, William, 31, 37
Harris, Leonard, 46
Highways, Nevada State Dept.,
3, 7, 8
Hiko, Lincoln County, 58
Hospital, Nevada State, 50, 51,
52
Housing, Public, 44-45
Humphrey, Marvin, 56

J

Johnson, Marsh, 11
Jones, Clifford, A., 58

K

Kean, Thomas, 33
Kidding, Allen, 7
Kirman, Richard, 3, 57

L

Labor, Organized, 4-5, 35, 36,
59
Las Vegas, 2, 11, 27, 28, 38
49, 54, 58, 59

Lerude, Leslie, 21
License Plates, 54, 55
Lobbying, Legislative, 36, 37
Lovelock, Forest, 11

M

Mapes, Charles, 31
McCarran, Pat, 17, 18
McCuiston, Ted, 58
McDermitt, 7
Motels, National Association,
20, 21

N

National Education Assoc., 28
Newspapers, Local, 33, 38, 47

O

Orovada, 7

P

Palace Club, 37
Paradise Hill, 7
Peabody Educational Advisory
Group, 26-27, 30, 38
Pittman, Key, 14
Pittman, Vail, 14, 15, 57
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 7
Politics, 11, 20, 21-25

R

Railroads, 4, 43
Railroaders, 2
Reno, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10,
11-13, 27, 44
Reno, City Council, 44
Republican Party, 4-5, 12,
18, 21, 25, 43, 58
Reynolds, Patricia, 8
Riverside Hotel, 13
Robbins, John E., 1, 4, 5
Roosevelt, F.D., 1, 13, 14, 18
Rotary, Club, 13, 20
Russell, Charles, 25, 29, 38,
50, 51, 56
Ryan, "Sailor" James, 36, 58

S

Settelmeyer, Fred, 57
Sheep, 2
Silver State Lodge, 9, 10
Smith Valley, 8
Socialism, 19, 20
Soil Conservation Service, 8
Southworth Tobacco Co., 11
Sparks, 8, 25, 50
State Park Service, 1-6
Stout, Minard, 52, 53

T

Taft, Robert A., 46
Taxes,
22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, 32,
34, 36, 39, 40, 47, 48
Territorial Enterprise,
41
Tillim, Sidney, 50-52
Tourism, 9, 20, 58-9

U

University, Nevada, 52, 54

V

Von Tobel, George, 48

W

Walker, Edward, 16
Walker, Margaret, 8
War, World II, 12, 13
Welfare, 19, 23, 25, 34, 36
Western Pacific Railroad, 2, 5
Wigwam Coffee Shop, 21
Wingfield, Family, 12, 13,
14-17, 18
Winnemucca, 7
Wooster, Earl, 28

Y

Young, Clifton, 19, 20
Young Turk, Movement, 18-20

